

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

A Daimler Company

April 19, 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch. Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re:

IB Docket No. 95-91, WT Docket, No. 07-293, and

GN Docket Nos. 09-47, 09-51, and 09-137

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA), on behalf of our parent company, Daimler AG, wishes to express its concern with the recently proposed changes to the WCS service rules. Also, we support the comments filed by the two main US automotive trade associations, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (Alliance),"<sup>2</sup> and the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers (AIAM)<sup>3</sup>. In our earlier filing in this proceeding, we said that allowing mobile transmissions in the WCS band creates a significant risk of interference to in-vehicle reception and we asked the Commission to invite comment on specific proposals before it modifies the WCS rules.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide this further input. However, we strongly disagree with the staff's current proposal, which disregards extensive evidence in the record demonstrating that absent effective safeguards, satellite radio reception will be degraded by WCS mobile operations. Sirius XM has spent billions of dollars developing networks that are based on its reasonable expectation that the Commission would not allow mobile WCS devices. Automakers have installed tens of millions of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Commission Staff Requests That Interested Parties Supplement the Record On Draft Interference Rules For Wireless Communications Service and Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service (DA 10-592, released April 2, 2010)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Alliance is a trade association whose members are: BMW Group, Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors LLC, Jaguar Land Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, and Volkswagen.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The AIAM is a trade association members are: Aston Martin, Advios, Bosch, Delphi, Denso, Ferrari, Maserati, Honda, Hyundai, Isuzu, JAMA, Kia, Mahindra, Mitsubishi Motors, McLaren Automotive, Nissan, Peugeot, Subaru, Suzuki, and Toyota.

satellite radios in their vehicles with that same understanding. Currently there are over 800,000 Mercedes-Benz vehicles with SDARS already on the road.

If the Commission loosens the WCS rules, it should also adopt provisions that will effectively protect satellite radio listeners who experience interference from WCS operations. As an integral part of modified WCS rules, the Commission should require any WCS operator causing interference to satellite radio to promptly eliminate the interference or discontinue its operations. The Commission should also adopt a streamlined process to ensure that consumers have an effective remedy if the situation requires government intervention.

Other automobile manufacturers and trade associations have already gone on record in this proceeding with similar concerns. Our common position reflects the importance of satellite radio to our customers and the challenges WCS rule changes would present to us, just at the time we are all working to recover from the economic recession. We hope any revisions to the WCS rules will fully protect the millions of consumers who rely on satellite radio in their automobiles.

MBUSA will continue to review the docket in this proceeding and we appreciate the Commission's consideration of our comments regarding this matter.

Respectfully Submitted.

Frank J. Diertl General Manager

**Engineering Services** 

Anthony P. La Spada

Associate General Counsel

& Assistant Secretary

cc:

The Honorable Julius Genachowski

The Honorable Michael J. Copps

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn

The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker

Mr. Julius Knapp